

Attorney Docket No. 66635

least one aperture through said knob assembly and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said probe containing a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said cooking vessel, wherein said knob assembly includes a whistle body that provides an audible signal in response to flow of vapor therethrough, and a movable member having a dual function notch formed therein that operates selectively both as a release to selectively permit removal of the movable member for cleaning, and as a slot for vapor discharge to selectively enable the whistle body.

20. (Once amended) Waterless cookware comprising a cooking vessel suitable for use in stove top waterless cooking applications comprising a pan and a removable lid assembly comprising a lid having an upper surface and a lower surface and a peripheral rim, said lid assembly further comprising a knob body on said upper surface and defining at least one aperture through said knob body and said lid, said lid assembly further comprising a thermometer including a probe extending downward through said aperture and a temperature display, wherein said probe has a bottom end disposed above the rim, said probe containing a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said cooking vessel, said thermometer being rapidly responsive to temperature changes within the cooking vessel, and being removable from said knob body by lifting the thermometer therefrom to facilitate cleaning.

22. (Once Amended) A cooking vessel in accordance with claim 20 wherein said lid assembly further comprises a holder that is removable from the lid for supporting said thermometer

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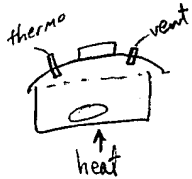
and a retaining member on the lid that selectively retains the thermometer thereon.

23. A method of waterless cooking comprising placing one or more food items with little or no additional water in a cooking pan having a bottom wall, at least one side wall, and a removable lid assembly, said lid assembly comprising a lid having an upper surface and a rim, and having a knob assembly on said upper surface and said lid assembly having at least one aperture in the lid and at least one vent therethrough, and a thermometer including a probe extending downward to through said aperture and a temperature display, said probe having a lower end disposed slightly above the elevation of the rim of the lid;

applying heat to the bottom of the pan;

measuring temperature with said probe, said probe having a temperature sensing device disposed beneath said aperture and within said pan, above all of said food items to measure temperature between said food items and said lid assembly; and

when the temperature in the pan reaches a predetermined point, closing the vent and reducing the rate at which heat is supplied to the pan to cook the food items at low temperatures and pressures.



NO
Support
Hoff

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, due to insufficient antecedent basis for "the whistle body" in line 16. We appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2-6 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection. Claim 2 has been so amended.

Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being